

EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT



SAINT PETER CATHEDRAL
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

MARCH 30, 2024





MOST REV. LAWRENCE T. PERSICO, J.C.L.
BISHOP OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

The long preparation of the catechumens, the Lenten disciplines and fast of the faithful, the vigiling and fasting and prayer that have gone on since Thursday night—all culminate in the great liturgy of this night. On this night the Church assembles to spend much time listening to Scripture, praying psalms, acclaiming the death and resurrection of the Lord.

PART I: THE LUCERNARIUM

THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE AND PREPARATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

A large fire is prepared in a suitable place. The people and the Priest assemble there with other ministers (carrying the Paschal Candle). The Priest then greets the assembly in the usual manner and briefly instructs them about the vigil and blesses the fire.

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),... Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

To stress the dignity and significance of the Paschal Candle, the following rite is done.

After the blessing of the new fire, the Priest cuts a cross into the candle with a stylus. Then he traces the Greek letter Alpha above the cross, the letter Omega below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross. While doing this he says:

1. Christ yesterday and today;
2. the Beginning and the End;
3. the Alpha;
4. and the Omega.
5. All time belongs to him;
6. and all the ages.
7. To him be glory and power;
8. Through every age and for ever. Amen.



When the cross and other marks have been made, the Priest may insert five grains of incense in the candle. He does this in the form of a cross saying:

1. By his holy
2. and glorious wounds, **1**
3. may Christ the Lord **4 2 5**
4. guard us
5. and protects us. Amen. **3**

The Priest lights the paschal candle from the new fire saying:

*May the light of Christ rising in glory
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.*

PROCESSION

One of the ministers takes burning coals from the fire and places them in the thurible; the Priest then places incense into it. The Deacon, or other appropriate minister, accepts the Paschal Candle from the Priest, and a procession is formed. The Priest and ministers follow the smoking thurible and lit Paschal Candle, leading the people, who are holding unlit candles, to the door of the Cathedral. At the door of the darkened Cathedral, the Deacon then takes the Paschal Candle, lifts it high, and sings:



The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

After this, the Priest lights his candle. When the procession reaches the middle of the Cathedral, the Deacon lifts the candle high and sings a second time:

The Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

All light their candles from the Paschal Candle and the procession continues. When the Deacon arrives before the altar, he faces the people and sings a third time:

The Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

After the Paschal Candle is placed in a large candle holder, the lights of the Cathedral are put on, except for the altar candles.



THE EXSULTET

In this ancient text the church gives thanks and praise to God for all that is recalled this night: Adam's fall, the deliverance from Egypt, the Passover of Christ, the wedding of earth and heaven, our reconciliation.

The Exsultet is proclaimed by the Deacon or, in his absence, by the Priest. If necessary, a lay cantor may sing the Exsultet. All stand and hold lighted candles.

Musical notation for the Exsultet. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is for Deacon/Priest and All, with lyrics: 'The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it.' The second staff is for Deacon/Priest/Cantor and All, with lyrics: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.' The third staff is for Deacon/Priest/Cantor and All, with lyrics: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.'

Deacon/Priest All
The Lord be with you. **And with your spir - it.**

Deacon/Priest/Cantor All
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Deacon/Priest/Cantor All
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

PART II: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

On this night, the liturgy of the word is an extended time of readings, silence and the chanting of psalms. On this night when the faithful know the death and resurrection of the Lord in baptism and the Eucharist, the church needs to first hear these scriptures which are the foundation of our life together: the creation story, the dividing of the Red Sea, the proclamation of Paul to the Romans and the gospel account of Jesus' resurrection.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 1:1 — 2:2

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

After the reading, the reader says "The Word of the Lord," and all respond

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (CANTOR/ALL)

PSALM 104



Lord, send out your Spir - it, and re - new the face of the earth.

Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYER (PLEASE STAND)



SECOND READING

EXODUS 14: 15 — 15:1

The Israelites marched on dry land through the midst of the sea.

After the reading, the reader says "The Word of the Lord," and all respond

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (CANTOR/ALL)

EXODUS 15



Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered him-self in glo - ry.

Refrain & Verses: Luke Mayernick

© 2017, Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

PRAYER (PLEASE STAND)

THIRD READING

ISAIAH 55: 1-11

Come to me that you may have life.

I will renew with you an everlasting covenant.

After the reading, the reader says "The Word of the Lord," and all respond

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (CANTOR/ALL)

ISAIAH 12

☩. You will draw wa - ter joy - ful - ly

from the springs of sal - va - tion.

Text © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Music: Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.

PRAYER (PLEASE STAND)

GLORIA (SUNG BY ALL)

MASS OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on
earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo-ry —
Lord God Hea-ven - ly King, O God al - might - ty Fa - ther,
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Fa - ther, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on
us; you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive — our prayer,
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. —
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the most High, Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly
Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, A - men!

PRAYER (PLEASE STAND)

EPISTLE

ROMANS 6:3-11

Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (CANTOR/ALL)

PSALM 118



Music: O FILII ET FILIAE; Chant, Mode II. Verses by Owen Alstott.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."
(all repeat refrain)

2. "The right hand of the Lord has struck with power;
The right hand of the Lord is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord."
(all repeat refrain)

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
(all repeat refrain)

GOSPEL READING

MARK 16: 1-7

Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified, has been raised.

Before the Gospel, the Priest/Deacon says, "The Lord be with you," and all respond:

And with your spirit.

Before Priest/Deacon says, "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N"., and all respond: **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel reading, the Priest/Deacon says, "The Gospel of the Lord," and all respond: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

PART III: THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY

After the homily the catechumens are called forward. The congregation chants the Litany of Saints, invoking the holy women and men of all centuries. Patron saints of the church and of the catechumens and the faithful may be included in the litany.

THE BLESSING OF WATER

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

All of the faithful repeat and affirm the rejection of sin made at baptism and profess faith in Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The assembly is sprinkled with the baptismal water.



RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION

Those who have been previously baptized are now called forward to profess their faith and to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The newly baptized with their godparents and, if they have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, the newly received with their sponsors, now stand before the Priest. He addresses them with these or similar words:

My dearly newly baptized,...
...and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

The Priest then addresses the rest of the congregation:

My dear friends,...
...and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

All pray briefly in silence.

The Priest holds his hands outstretched over the entire group of those to be confirmed and says the following prayer.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,...
...Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Each candidate with godparents or sponsors, goes to the Priest. Either or both godparents and sponsors place the right hand on the shoulder of the candidate; a godparent or a sponsor gives the candidate's Confirmation name to the minister of the sacrament. The minister anoints each of the candidates using these words:

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Peace be with you.

And with your spirit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PART IV:

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The gifts and altar and prepared and the Eucharist is celebrated.

OFFERTORY HYMN (SUNG BY ALL)

THIS JOYFUL EASTERIDE



1. This joy - ful East - er - tide A - way with sin and
 2. My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son
 3. Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci -
 slum - ber; Till trump from east to
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from

fied, Has sprung to life this mor - row:
 west Shall wake the dead in num - ber:
 ill My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three - day pris -
 on, Our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a -
 ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934

Tune: VRUECHTEN, 6 7 6 7 with refrain; Melody in Oudaen's *David's Psalmen*, 1685; harm. by Paul G. Bunjes, 1914–1998

SANCTUS (HOLY, HOLY)

MASS OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of Hosts
Hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

© 2021, Richard Robert Rossi. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

POST CONSECRATIONEM

MASS OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

When we eat this bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your death O Lord, un - til you come a - gain!

© 2021, Richard Robert Rossi. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

AMEN

MASS OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men!

© 2021, Richard Robert Rossi. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (RECITE TOGETHER)

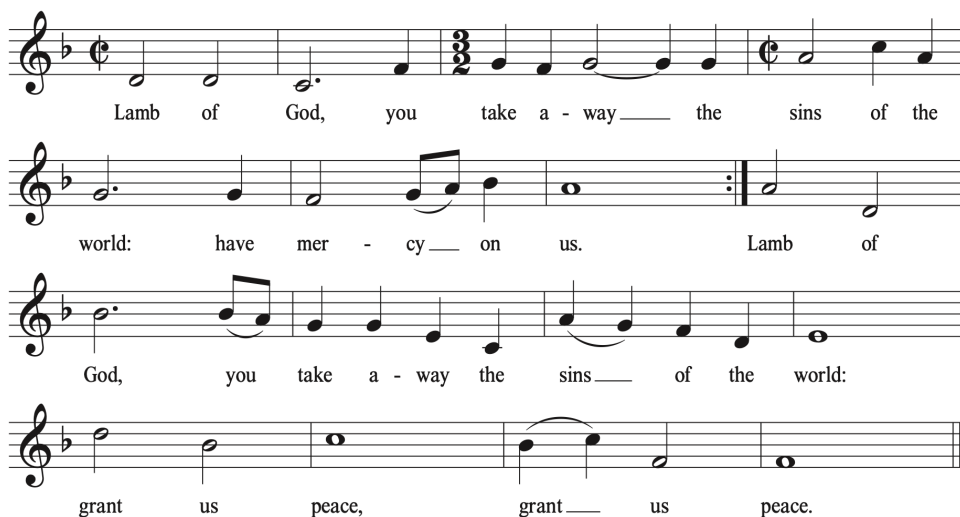
SIGN OF PEACE

After the Priest says, "The peace of the Lord be with you always," and all respond:

And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

MASS OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE



Lamb of God, you take a - way — the sins of the
world: have mer - cy — on us. Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sins — of the world:
grant us peace, grant — us peace.

© 2021, Richard Robert Rossi. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

After the Priest says, "Behold the Lamb of God,... called to the supper of the Lamb."

the people respond:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, But only say the word and my soul shall be healed.



COMMUNION HYMN (SUNG BY ALL)

THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Based on Revelation 5, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Irregular: Richard Hillert, 1925–2010, © 1975, 1988, Richard Hillert

CHORAL ANTHEM (SUNG BY THE CHOIR)

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

THOMAS MATTHEWS

RECESSIONAL HYMN (SUNG BY ALL)

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY



1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal, as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise him, now his might con - fess, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: St. 1, *Surrexit Christus hodie*, Latin, 14th C.; para. in *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; st. 2, 3, *The Compleat Psalmist*, c.1750, alt.; st. 4, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: EASTER HYMN, 77 77 with alleluias; *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

All music reprinted with permission under One License.net #A-736017
Bishop's photo courtesy of Mark Fainstein

**SAINT PETER CATHEDRAL
WELCOMES AND CONGRATULATES
THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH**

JAKE BINNEY

KARL BRAID

CHRISTOPHER BUTLER

HANNAH DEVINE

NATHAN HILZENDEGER



**MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES HAVE A
BLESSED AND HOLY EASTER SEASON**